Opening of Qutub Minar for public

1796. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to keep the Qutub Minar open to the public which is closed for the last several years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the visitors would be allowed to see the historical monuments?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The Qutub Minar is open to the visitors. However, the visitors and tourists are not allowed to climb the staircase since 1981. A decision in principle has been taken to open the Qutub Minar upto the first floor. Adequate security and safety measures need to be ensured, and put in place before a final decision is taken. Necessary repairs and other works relating to security and safety of the Qutub Minar are in progress.

Plan for prevention of flash floods

1797. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 22 crore rupees plan titled "Erosion control for prevention of flash floods in Guwahati City" is pending for final clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any measures for afforestation and other anti-erosion measures on the hills in and around the city of Guwahati under this plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Government of Assam had proposed a project, namely, "Soil erosion control for managing of flash floods in Guwahati city" with an estimated cost of Rs. 21.25 crore in their priority